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REMARKS

Responsive to the Office Action dated July 12, 2006, Applicants have, by the foregoing, amended claims 1 and 23. Substantively, remaining in the application are independent claim 1 with its dependent claims 2-8 and 10-14; and independent claim 23 with its dependent claims 24, 25, 27 and 28.

Interview Summary

On October 12, 2006, the undersigned was granted a brief interview with Examiner Dunwoody and wishes to express his thanks to the Examiner for his time and courtesy.

During the interview, the *Response to Arguments* section of the latest Office Action was discussed. Additionally, claims 1 and 23, as presented in Amendment B filed on February 18, 2006, were discussed.

The discussion of the *Response to Arguments* section of the latest Office Action primarily involved the second and third paragraphs thereof. With regard to the second paragraph, it was argued that the claims do recite an arrangement in which a seal is formed with the tubing end using the first and second fitting components. With regard to the third paragraph, it was argued that the claims do recite an arrangement in which the third fitting is spaced or otherwise operatively disassociated with the tubing end. No agreement was reached with regard to patentability of claims 1 or 23.

However, it was indicated that claims 1 and 23 may recite language that was relied upon in Amendment B with regard to the latter issue presented in the third paragraph of the latest Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request, reconsideration of claims 1 and 23.

In the Claims

The latest Office Action states that the claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to the inclusion of the term "thin-walled" in independent claims 1 and 23.

Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully submit that the language of claims 1 and 23 does particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present

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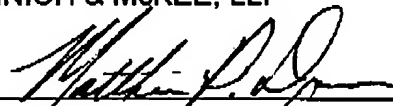
invention. However, while Applicants do not acquiesce to the present rejection and maintain that one of skill in the art would be reasonably apprised of the of the scope of the invention, claims 1 and 23 have been amended to delete the term "thin-walled" to place the pending claims in better condition for appeal.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments and discussion are fully responsive to the latest Office Action. Reconsideration of the claims, as amended, and an early notice of allowability are earnestly solicited.

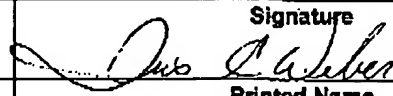
Alternatively, in the interests of compact prosecution and advancing this application to issue, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner telephone the undersigned to discuss any of the foregoing and/or to make any suggestions that the Examiner may have to place the case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
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Date
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216-861-5582**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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